



## **STAFF REPORT**

**Meeting Date: February 17, 2015**

**Agenda Item #: VI - e**

**TO: Mayor and Town Council**  
**FROM: Lisa H. Anglin, Town Clerk**  
**THUR: Susan Parker, Town Administrator**  
**TITLE: Fee-Supported Canal Dredging and Maintenance District**

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**Summary:** NC General Assembly in 2013 approved legislation to allow the Town to impose a Canal Dredging and Maintenance Fee.

**Background:** During the 2014 Planning (Retreat) Session, The Council discussed canal, channel and Bay dredging with Holley Snider, CAMA Representative. Snider advised that dredging permits would be approved for the feeder channel, the finger canals, Mary's Creek and Turtle Creek due to recent dredging project in those areas. Snider advised that Blaine Creek, Inlet and Bay canals have never been dredged since developed so the likelihood of a dredging permit being approved for those areas is doubtful. Snider advised that the Bay area, behind Canal Drive, Cobia Street, etc. would be a new dredging area and suggested Town official hold a scoping meeting with CAMA, NC Wildlife and the Army Corps of Engineers to determine if those agencies would be favorable to the Bay area being dredged before applying for a permit. Snider explained the importance of establishing a pier head alignment ordinance for the finger canals similar to the alignment ordinance recently adopted for the feeder channel.

Also, during the 2014 Planning (Retreat) Session, the Council reached a consensus for Town officials and Holley Snider to proceed with securing dredging permits for the feeder channel, fingers canals, Mary's Creek and Turtle Creek and to set up a scoping meeting, with the appropriate agencies, for the Bay area. The Council also reached a consensus to proceed with establishing a pier head alignment ordinance for the finger canals.

**Discussion:** Further research performed by Staff determined that the establishment of the district would require initial funding to survey and engineer the project area, develop the dredging plan, and obtain the regulatory permits. The project was delayed.

Also, it has been determined that the local act only applies to canals and therefore may require an amendment by the General Assembly to include the feeder channel, bay, inlets and creeks.

Staff is in communications with the Brunswick County Tax Department to determine if their software will accommodate the collection of the district fee which is required manner of collections as established by the legislation.

**Fiscal/Policy Implication(s):** Associated cost with engineering, surveying, permitting and plan development as estimated at \$50,000.